

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office action dated February 24, 2005, and the references cited therein have been carefully reviewed in light of the examiner's helpful comments and suggestions.

As a result of the Office action, claims 5, 7, 9, and 12 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, for which, as a preliminary matter, Applicants wish to thank the examiner for an early indication of allowable subject matter.

However, claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,070,852 to McDonnell in view of U.S. 5,979,691 to Von Holdt. Moreover, claims 13-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonnell in view of Von Holdt, and further in view of U.S. 6,349,701 to Sakurai.

By the above amendments, claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5, 7, 9, and 12 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 9. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 5. Claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 7. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 9. Claim 22 has been amended to depend from claim 12. Claim 25 has been amended to depend from claim 5. Therefore, claim 5, 7, 9-10, and 12-25 are now believed to be in

condition for allowance.

Each issue raised in the Office action dated February 24, 2005, has been addressed and it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Wherefore, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
DENNISON, SCHULTZ,
DOUGHERTY & MACDONALD

By: 

Amir H. Behnia
Reg. No. 50,215
(703) 837-9600 Ext. 16